

2005 Biennial Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony

Listed National Register Property / Address / City / County
Property Owner / Nomination Author / Local Historic Preservation Officer / Accepting Award

Neihart School, 200 South Main Street, Neihart, Cascade County

Owner: Town of Neihart
Author: John Dimke, Neihart
HPO: Ellen Sievert
Accepting: Ellen Sievert, Great Falls/Cascade County Local Preservation Officer

The Neihart School was listed in the National Register on March 7, 2003. Associated with the historical development of the town of Neihart, World War II mining activities, and the Works Progress Administration, the school is an excellent example of national trends in school design during the mid-twentieth century. Designed by Great Falls architect George Shanley, the building exhibits the Rustic style popular with New Deal projects.

Evano School, 6688 Grooms Road, Evano, Missoula County

Owner: Evano Community Center, Inc.
Author: Jeannie Boggess, Missoula
HPO: Philip Maechling, Missoula Historic Preservation Officer
Accepting: Jeannie Boggess

Constructed in 1920, the Evano School played a large role in the social and civic life of the small western Montana town of Evano for over eight decades. A well-preserved example of early 20th century school design in the eclectic Craftsman style, its construction reflected growing interest and advances in public education. The Evano School was listed on May 1, 2003.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch/Warren Ranch, Cattle Drive, G-K Ranch National Historic Site, Deer Lodge, Powell County

Owners: Laura Rotegard, Superintendent
Montana Rail Link, Missoula
Authors: Ann Emmons, HRA, Inc.
Dawn Bunyak, NPS, Denver
Christine Whitacre
HPO: David Beaver, Deer Lodge Historic Preservation Officer
Accepting: Laura Rotegard, Superintendent, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS

The Warren Ranch at Grant Kohrs National Historic Site in Deer Lodge reflects the modernization of the cattle industry on the Great Plains, revealing both the changes and continuities from the days of the open range to the modern era. Significant for both its association with the history of agriculture and for its rustic utilitarian architecture, the Warren complex was listed on July 11, 2003.

Benton Avenue Cemetery, 1800 N. Benton Avenue, Helena, Lewis and Clark County

Owner: Benton Avenue Cemetery Association
c/o Robert Werner, President
Author: Ellen Baumler, Helena
HPO: Paul Putz, Helena-Lewis and Clark County Historic Preservation Officer
Accepting: Cemetery Association representative

Listed on July 24, 2003, the Benton Avenue Cemetery is among the oldest burial grounds in the city of Helena. Organized in 1870 primarily by the Protestant community, the cemetery is associated with the city's pioneers, the transformation of Helena from a mining camp to a political center, and the area's early fraternal organizations. The nomination was written for the Benton Avenue Cemetery Association by the Montana Historical Society's Ellen Baumler.

Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 916 Fifth Ave. S, Great Falls, Cascade County

Owner: Union Bethel AME Church
c/o Reverend Robert Payne
Authors: Barbara Behan, Missoula
Ken Robison, Great Falls
HPO: Ellen Sievert, Great Falls-Cascade County Historic Preservation Officer
Accepting: Members of the Union Bethel AME Church Congregation, and Barbara Behan, Ken Robison

The Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (or AME) Church, in Great Falls, is one of the longest-used African American churches in Montana. Constructed in 1917, the church was listed in the National Register on September 11, 2003. It is historically significant for its associations with the patterns of black community growth in the western United States and the historical development of the African American community in Great Falls. The preparation of the nomination for the church by historian Barbara Behan was funded by a grant from the Montana Land Title Association Foundation.

Snell, Walrond and Elizabeth, House, 402 S. Lake Street, Miles City, Custer County

Owner: Amorette and Steve Allison
HPO: Amorette Allison, Miles City Historic Preservation Officer
Accepting: Kathy Doeden, State Review Board Member, Miles City

Listed on September 11, 2003, the Snell House was one of the first masonry residences in Miles City. Its construction coincided with the first wave of economic development in the area, as well as with the arrival of the railroad. Designed by Miles City's first and most prominent architect, Byron Vreeland, the home is a fine example of late Victorian architecture.

Shore, Thomas and Beulah, House, 602 S. Strevell Avenue, Miles City, Custer County

Owners: Patrick and Janet Kelly, Miles City
Author: Jon Axline, Helena
HPO: Amorette Allison, Miles City Historic Preservation Officer
Accepting: Patrick and Janet Kelly

Also located in Miles City, the Thomas and Beulah Shore House is an excellent example of a hipped roof Bungalow-style residence. The home, which appears as it did when constructed in 1914, retains its original architectural design, materials, workmanship, and decorative detailing. Associated with the early 20th century commercial and residential expansion of Miles City that resulted from the homestead boom, the residence was listed on December 18, 2003.

Dearborn River High Bridge, 15 mi. SW of Augusta on Bean Lake Rd., Augusta, Lewis and Clark County

Owner: Lewis and Clark County
Author: Jon Axline, Helena
HPO: Paul Putz, Helena-Lewis and Clark County Historic Preservation Officer
Accepting: Jon Axline, Helena

The Dearborn River High Bridge near Augusta is a rare example of a pin-connected half-deck Pratt truss bridge (if you can believe MDT Historian Jon Axline!). Listed on December 18, 2003, the bridge may be the only remaining example of this type of bridge in the United States. The bridge is associated with both the first great period of modern bridge building in Montana and with the agricultural development of the upper Dearborn River.

Reid (Zeh) House, 526 E. Front, Missoula, Missoula County

Owner: Robert Knight, Missoula
Author: Ann Emmons, Missoula
HPO: Philip Maechling
Accepting: Philip Maechling, Missoula-Missoula County
Historic Preservation Officer

The Reid residence was built in 1890 in the neighborhood now known as the "Heart of Missoula" during a time when Missoula served as western Montana's trade and distribution center. Between 1902 and 1912, the owners converted the simple ell-shaped home into a fashionable Queen Anne style residence. The house was listed on December 18, 2003, for its association with Queen Anne architecture as employed within the context of Missoula's early residential development.

First United Methodist Church Parsonage, 113 Sixth Street North, Great Falls, Cascade County

Owner: Yellowstone Conference of United Methodist Church, Billings
Author: Dr. Suzanne Waring, Great Falls
HPO: Ellen Sievert
Accepting: Ellen Sievert, Great Falls-Cascade County Historic Preservation Officer

The 1909 First United Methodist Church Parsonage in Great Falls was listed on December 23, 2003. The only official residence in Montana of William Wesley Van Orsdel, the charismatic circuit-riding preacher known as "Brother Van," this American Four-Square style building is important for its associations with the history of Methodist evangelism in Montana, and the role of the church in Montana settlement.

Brewery Saloon, 120 Main Street, Kalispell Main Street Historic District, Kalispell, Flathead County

Owner: John Hinchey, Kalispell
Author: John Hinchey
Accepting: John Hinchey

The Brewery Saloon was added to the National Register listing of Kalispell's Main Street Commercial Historic District on February 5, 2004. Formerly considered a non-contributing resource, the building has been completely restored in a process that included removing all non-historic elements from the façade, rehabilitating and reusing existing historic material, and reconstructing missing architectural details by using historic photographs and oral interviews to ensure historical accuracy.

Bones Brothers Ranch, W of Custer National Forest, Birney vicinity, Rosebud County

Owners: Irving Alderson, Jr., Jeannie Alderson, Mary Alderson, Natalie Alderson Moog
Author: Joan Brownell, Billings
Accepting: Sharon Lincoln, Montana Historical Society
Trustee, Forsyth

The Bones Brothers Ranch is significant for its historic association with the evolution of the livestock industry in the Tongue River Valley and with the development of tourism and dude ranching in Montana. Listed on March 19, 2004, the ranch is also significant for its well-preserved vernacular rustic architecture. The nomination of the ranch was funded through a Montana Land Title Association Foundation Grant.

Bearcreek Bank, Main and Second Streets, Bearcreek, Carbon County

Owner: City of Bearcreek
Authors: Jon and Lisa Axline, Helena
HPO: Penny Redli, Carbon County Historic Preservation Officer
Accepting: Bill and Patricia Genis, Bearcreek City Commission

Constructed of native sandstone shortly after Bearcreek's founding, the Bearcreek Bank building was important to the development of the Carbon County coal mining community. The Romanesque Revival structure is the finest example of stone construction remaining in the town. The nomination of the bank was researched and prepared by Lisa and Jon Axline of Helena who have family living there and was listed on March 31, 2004.

Missoula Mercantile Warehouse, 221, 229 and 231 E. Front Street, Missoula, Missoula County

Owners: 231 East Front Street LLP, Huson
MTF (LLC), Mary & Todd Frank, Missoula
Author: Allan Mathews, Missoula
CLG: Philip Maechling, Missoula-Missoula County historic Preservation Officer
Accepting: Allan Mathews

The Missoula Mercantile Company Warehouse in Missoula was built between 1893 and 1912. The brick and stone structure represents the last remaining wholesale warehouse building directly connected to western Montana's most powerful retail merchandising firm—the Missoula Mercantile Company. A standing visual connection to Missoula's economic development, the warehouse was listed on April 6, 2004.

McCormick Neighborhood Historic District, Missoula, Missoula County

Owners: multiple
Author: Dagny Krigbaum, Missoula
HPO: Philip Maechling, Missoula-Missoula County Historic Preservation Officer
Accepting: Dagny Krigbaum and Philip Maechling

Three hundred and thirty-nine contributing buildings make up the McCormick Neighborhood Historic District, the eighth historic district designated in the city of Missoula. Listed on May 19, 2004, the neighborhood still retains the same features that attracted earlier residents: well-built homes, peaceful streets, proximity to recreation, and easy access to downtown. The nomination was prepared under the Missoula Local Historic Preservation office with support from a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office.

Armour Cold Storage, 1 S. Broadway, Billings, Yellowstone County

Owner: W. Randall Hafer, High Plains Architecture, Billings
Author: Chere Jiusto, Helena
HPO: John Walsh, Yellowstone County Historic Preservation Officer
Accepting: Chere Jiusto, Director, Montana Preservation Alliance

The Armour Cold Storage building in Billings reflects late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century patterns of commercial development along western United States railroad lines. The Western Commercial style warehouse was constructed circa 1918 and remains an excellent example of this building type, recently carefully rehabilitated as a commercial tax credit project. It was listed in the National Register on July 7, 2004.

Great Falls Central Business Historic District, Central, 1st Ave N & S, Second Ave, Great Falls, Cascade County

Owners: multiple
Author: Candi Zion, Great Falls
Author & HPO: Ellen Sievert
Accepting: Ellen Sievert, Great Falls-Cascade County Historic Preservation Officer

The Great Falls Central Business Historic District has a long history, both in historic terms and as a nomination. After starts and stops, it was finally listed on August 19, 2004, thanks to the efforts of the Great

Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Office and a State Historic Preservation Office grant. The commercial district features an eclectic architectural mix that documents each period of the community's history. The buildings reflect the rise of Great Falls as the "Electric City" and the commercial, political, social, and economic center of north central Montana.

Oliver and Lucy Bonnell Gothic Arch Barn, East River Road, Clyde Park vicinity, Park County

Owners: Michael C. and Susan C. Dailey, Livingston
 Authors: Michael C. and Susan C. Dailey, Livingston
 Joan Brownell, Billings
 Accepting: Kate Hampton, National Register Coordinator

The Oliver and Lucy Bonnell Gothic Arch Roofed Barn is one of only ten gothic roofed barns presently known in Montana and the only Gothic roofed barn known in Park County. It is an excellent example of this style. Barns are rapidly disappearing from the American western landscape, so that barn architecture today is a threatened resource. Located near Clyde Park north of Livingston, the Bonnell Barn was listed on September 15, 2004.

Lewistown Satellite Airfield HD (Boundary Increase), Hwy 87, Lewistown, Fergus County

Owner: Lewistown City-County Airport Board
 c/o Jerry Moline, Airport Manager
 Authors: James Rea, Glasgow
 Leroy Musik, Lewistown
 HPO: Duane Ferdinand
 Accepting: Duane Ferdinand, Lewistown Historic Preservation Officer

The Lewistown Airfield Historic District, originally listed in the year 2000, was revised and increased in size with the new boundaries approved September 17, 2004. The addendum includes twelve contributing structures built and used by the U.S. Army Air Corps' during World War II. The Lewistown Airfield was one of four facilities constructed in Montana to train squadrons in navigation of the B-17 Flying Fortress and to use the top-secret Norden Bombsight.

First Presbyterian Church of Whitefish, 301 Central Avenue, Whitefish, Flathead County

Owner: First Presbyterian Church of Whitefish
 c/o Andrew M. Kennally, Pastor
 Author: Vivian Hull, Whitefish
 Accepting: Kate Hampton, National Register Coordinator

The First Presbyterian Church of Whitefish was not only a place of worship, but also a community meeting place, recreational center, education facility, and base of operations for the congregation's considerable service work. Designed by Spokane architects Archibald Rigg and Roland Vantyne, the building is a remarkable local example of Romanesque Revival church architecture. It was listed on October 1, 2004.

OTO Dude Ranch, 10 miles northwest of Gardiner, Park County

Owner: Becki Heath, Forest Supervisor
 USFS, Gallatin National Forest
 Authors: Ann Emmons, HRA
 Walt Allen, Forest Archaeo, Gallatin NF
 Accepting: Walt Allen, Ken Britson, Ron Gardener, Wayne Gouterman and Norita Gouterman)

Through the efforts of the Forest Service, the OTO Ranch on the Gallatin National Forest was listed on October 12, 2004. The well-preserved ranch is nationally significant for its historic association with the dude ranch industry and its association with "Dick" Randall, "the Father of Montana Dude Ranching." Ranch architecture and rustic decor were a deliberate attempt to create a "western style" to capture the imagination of eastern dudes and other guests.

Helena Railroad Depot Historic District, Roughly Bounded by Railroad & Helena Avenues, and Gallatin, North Sanders, and North Harris Streets, Lewis and Clark County

Owners: multiple
 Authors: Ellen Baumler and Jon Axline
 HPO: Paul Putz, Helena-Lewis and Clark County
 Historic Preservation Officer
 Accepting: Rocky Hipkey, Helena/Lewis & Clark County
 Preservation Commission

The Helena Railroad Depot Historic District developed as a direct result of the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad in June 1883, and over half its buildings were built within five years of that date. The twenty-three buildings that make up the district include the 1904 depot as well as establishments that catered to travelers and the area's working-class residents. Thanks to local Helena historians Jon Axline and Ellen Baumler, who authored the nomination, this important piece of Helena's history was listed on December 15, 2004.

Belt Commercial Historic District, Castner Street, Belt, Cascade County

Owner: multiple
 Author: Jon Axline, Helena
 HPO: Ellen Sievert, Great Falls-Cascade County Historic
 Preservation Officer
 Accepting: Jon Axline and Ellen Sievert

The buildings within the two-block Commercial Historic District of Belt, southeast of Great Falls, provide an excellent and largely intact example of late 19th and early 20th century architecture. They also convey the commercial, recreational, and social development of this small coal-mining community. For these reasons, and thanks to the efforts of the Montana Department of Transportation, the district was listed on December 23, 2004.

Howard School, Old Highway 10, Forsyth vicinity, Rosebud County

Owner: Howard Community Club
 c/o Jean Spannagel, Forsyth
 Author: Celeste Rohrich and Jean Spannagel
 Accepting: Judy Cole, Montana Historical Society Trustee,
 Forsyth

The Howard School near Forsyth was constructed in 1905, at a time when the ranchers and homesteaders came in large numbers to the eastern Montana plains. The substantial, two-story building demonstrates the community of Howard's faith in the future and its commitment to education. The school building, which remains an important meeting place for the Howard community, was listed on December 23, 2004.

Montana Veterans & Pioneers Memorial Building, (a.k.a. Montana Historical Society Building), 225 N. Roberts St, Helena, Lewis and Clark County

Owners: Department of Administration
 Author: Kate Hampton, National Register Coordinator
 HPO: Paul Putz, Helena-Lewis and Clark County
 Historic Preservation Officer
 Accepting: Arnie Olsen and Shirley Herrin

Great Falls architect Angus Vaughn McIver designed the Montana Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building next to the State Capitol. Since its construction in 1951, the building has housed the Montana Historical Society while also serving as offices and an on-going memorial to Montana's veterans and pioneers. For its architectural significance and its association with the history of art and education in Montana, the building was listed on December 15, 2004.

Baker Hotel, 4 South Main Street, Baker, Fallon County

Owner: City of Baker
Authors: Mark Campbell, Southeast Montana Area
Revitalization Team (SMART), Baker
Chere Jiusto
Accepting: Chere Jiusto, Director, Montana Preservation
Alliance, Helena

The Baker Hotel represents far eastern Montana and is the first property to be listed in the year 2005 - on January 5. The Baker Hotel was built across the street from the historic location of this small town's railroad depot. It is the town's second oldest standing brick building and has anchored Baker's commercial core since its construction in 1915.

Burgess Garage, Third & Main Streets, Lambert, Richland County

Owner: Lambert Historical Society
Author: Rob Knotts, Lambert Historical Society
Accepting: Rob Knotts, Pat and Kenny Torgerson, and the
granddaughter of Mr. Burgess Barb Albrecht

Representing eastern Montana, the Burgess Garage in Lambert, west of Sidney was constructed sometime before 1913. Largely unchanged, the building has remained a garage for its entire commercial existence - while also serving as office space, including a local doctor's office. Listed on December 30, 2004, it is one of the oldest buildings in the community of Lambert and reflects the significance of the automobile in the town-building that accompanied the homestead boom.